

Saint Vincent de Paul

- Feastday: September 27
- Patron Saint of: charities
- Birth: April 24, 1581
- Death: September 27, 1660
- Canonized: by Pope Clement XIII on June 16, 1737



"And what are we
doing if we are not
doing God's Will?"

"If God is the center
of your life, no words
are necessary. Your
mere presence will
touch hearts."



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Saint Vincent de Paul was born to a poor peasant family in France. He was ordained a priest in 1600. In 1605, while on a ship traveling from Marseilles to Narbonne, he was captured, brought to Tunis, and sold as a slave. Two years later he and his master managed to escape and both returned to France.

St. Vincent went to Avignon and later to Rome to continue his studies. While there he became a chaplain to the Count of Goigny and was placed in charge of distributing money to the deserving poor. From that point forward he spent his life preaching missions to and providing relief to the poor. He even established hospitals for them. This work became his passion. He later extended his concern and ministry to convicts. The need to evangelize and assist these souls was so great and the demands beyond his own ability to meet that he founded the Ladies of Charity, a lay institute of women, to help, as well as a religious institute of priests - the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, commonly referred to now as the Vincentians.

The Vincentians remain with us today with nearly 4,000 members in 86 countries. In addition to his order of Vincentian priests, St. Vincent cofounded the Daughters of Charity along with St. Louise de Marillac. There are more than 18,000 Daughters today serving

the needs of the poor in 94 countries. He was eighty years old when he died in Paris on September 27, 1660. He had "become the symbol of the successful reform of the French Church". St. Vincent is sometimes referred to as "The Father of the Poor". Two miracles attributed to him are a nun cured of ulcers and a laywoman cured of paralysis.

His incorrupt heart can be found in the Convent of the Sisters of Charity and his bones have been embedded in a wax effigy of the Saint located at the Church of the Lazarist Mission. Both sites are located in Paris, France.